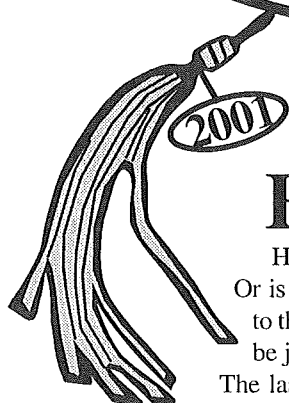


# echoes

May 2001



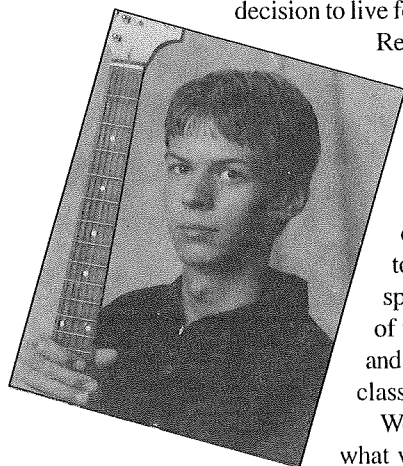
## Free to choose

Here we stand at the end of an incredible journey. Or is it just the beginning? We have all looked forward to the day we will graduate, but our graduation will be just as much a beginning as an end.

The last twelve years have been spent preparing for our graduation. We took the classes, paid the money, and managed to keep from being expelled. Now we are here.

I hope that we have gained something more than a diploma. I hope that we have made friends that we will have forever. I pray that, as a class, we have set our sights higher than the things we have accomplished on this earth.

As we begin the rest of our lives, we will face the pain and disappointment that this world offers. I hope we will make the decision to live for God.



Recently we felt the pain of Ben Shelton's tragic death. He was one of us and touched all of our lives in both large and small ways. He lived his life for God and I pray that we can all do that too and be ready to meet God. I would love to spend forever with every member of the incredible class of 2001 . . . and with all the members of the other classes too.

We can all be there. As we decide what we will do with the rest of our lives, I hope we make decisions that will bring us all back together again someday.

**Chris Jepson**  
*President, Class of 2001*

Upper Columbia Academy  
Spangle, Washington

## COMMENCEMENT JUNE 3 YOU'RE INVITED

### *Class of 2001*

#### *Class Text*

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

#### *Class Aim*

*I am religious by choice, not by intimidation.*

#### *Class Motto*

*Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

#### *Class Colors*

*Maroon, Black and Silver*

## Academy Day at UCA

Wednesday, April 4, started out as any other normal school day. Then it happened: a flood of 152 young visitors. Nowhere on campus escaped their presence. They were everywhere.

Campus tours were given by the wonderful seniors to show these visitors the wondrous sites of UCA and to help them know what to expect at high school.

As the day progressed, the excitement and noise radiating from these young visitors increased drastically as they began to feel more comfortable with their surroundings. But, alas, the time came when the music, the contests, the demonstrations--the eating--came to an end and the prospective UCA Lions left to tell of their wonderful and most delightful experience at Academy Day and to hope that the privilege is granted them to attend Upper Columbia Academy.

Chris Holmes

## College Days 2001

College days is definitely an experience that all high school seniors should have. It was very helpful for many of this year's seniors because it gives a first-hand experience on how things operate at college.

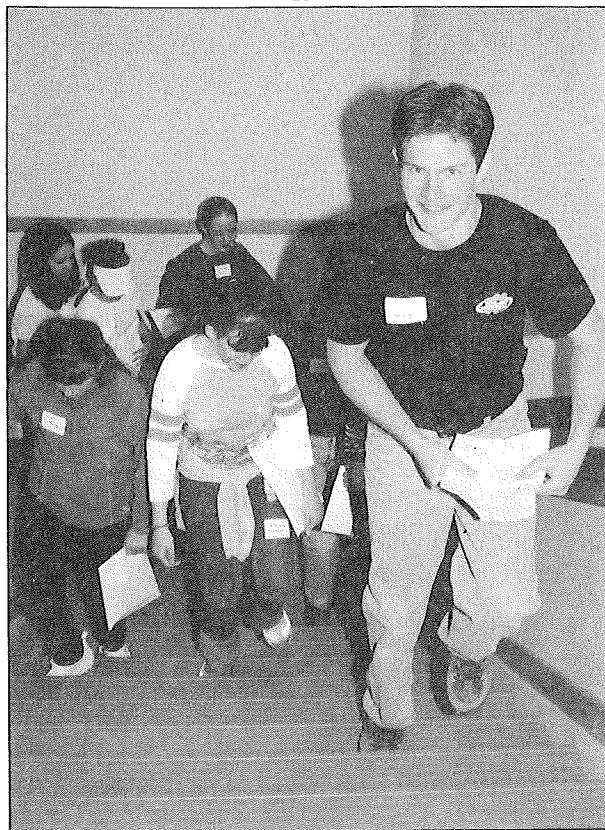
The senior class arrived on the Walla Walla College campus mid-afternoon on Sunday. They were greeted by several people and shown to the dorms to check in and find their respective rooms. The dorms in the college are quite different from high school dormitories. They have several floors, and more facilities to use such as kitchenettes, ice machines, and several vending machines.

The seniors were able to experience many different aspects of college life while attending college days. The first night, they attended an excellent concert that included numbers performed by the band, the choir, the string orchestra, and some of the piano majors. There were opportunities to attend classes and interest sessions to give a better idea about what to study. Also included were scholarship quizzes that helped identify eligibility for scholarships.

Altogether, many of the seniors felt that college days was beneficial to them. Even though they may not decide to attend Walla Walla College, college days can still be helpful because it really gives a good idea about what college life is like, what classes and majors are interesting, and, most of all, what to expect when making the transition from high school to college.

Rebecca Wahlman

Alumni Weekend was another success this year. Close to 400 alumni registered, with probably half that many more forgetting to register. Alumni along with their families and current students packed the gymnasium. New this year were information booths set up around the perimeter of the gym, presented by alumni who are involved in mission projects.



Kirt O'Connor leads an Academy Day tour group up the ad building stairs

## Music-a-Rama gets rave reviews

Each year at Upper Columbia Academy the choral, instrumental, and keyboard departments put extra effort into pulling off a successful Music-a-Rama program. This year was no exception. Music-a-Rama, which according to Mr. Lange started before he arrived here on the Ark, now coincides with Grandparent Weekend.

Synnove Anderson is the keyboard teacher as well as the new String Ensemble coordinator. She has spent substantial time this year making the Ensemble a success. Curtis Anderson, (who, as we all know, is no relation to Synnove) teaches Choir how to discern music, Choraliers to sing together, and Octet to sound masterful.. Naturally, one of the highlights of the evening, was performed by Octet. Ryan Bell was lead soloist, with the remainder of Octet on backup vocals.

Mr. Jerry Lange directed the band in stunning performances of pieces such as *Cartoon Capers* and *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. All in all, the entire program was exceptionally well done. Mr. Anderson said, "Quite a number of people told me how much they enjoyed it." Of course, no audience offers more support and loving admiration for the performers than a crowd of affectionate grandparents, and for obvious reasons, too. It's their grandchildren up there, and they're proud of them!

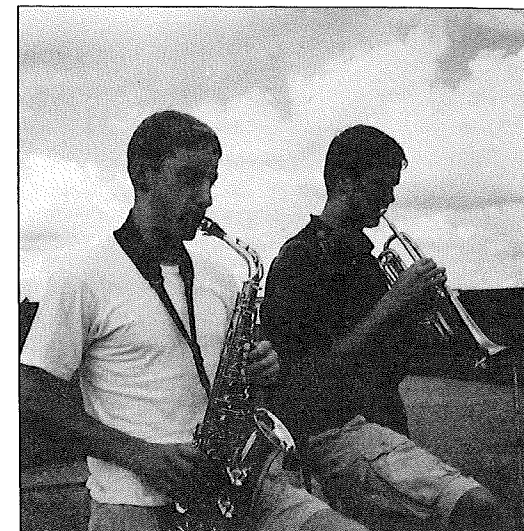
LC Weichal

## Mission trips amaze again

After an enjoyable weekend at the beach, the Borneo team arrived at the rather primitive longhouse (no electricity or running water) that would be their home and faced the daunting task of building a church with the construction almost two days behind schedule. A dawn-to-dusk work schedule enabled them to finish on time and worship in the new church on Sabbath. A medical and dental clinic were also held along with a VBS for the children.

The Malawi team also held a medical and dental clinic, but instead of building a church, they held evangelistic meetings in the Mzuzu soccer stadium. Each day the team fanned out through the countryside, inviting people to the meetings, and each night thousands came. 207 were baptised on the final Sabbath with many more planning for baptism.

Not for the faint of heart, mission trips provide unforgettable and unexpected memories. They strengthen faith and reinforce how fortunate we are here in America and how we take simple luxuries (food, beds, shelter, running water, safety . . .) for granted.



Jeff Dickerson and Kevin Ekvall practice playing under the African skies.



Shandon James, Pastor Fred, Devin Hunt and Fernando Bautista tackle the hot difficult work in Borneo



Holly Geisinger and Megan Lacey discover everyone loves to get into the picture in Mzuzu

## Leaders lift lives

Good leaders draw people toward right paths through their powerful guiding, inspirational directing, and reforming example.

Good leaders are essential in society, but often become unpopular even when they try their best to be diplomatic. Leaders must point people in the right direction, but at the same time those people must realize that they are going the wrong way. Although redirecting people often saves them a lot of hardship, most people do not want to be told that they need to aim their lives in better directions. They feel guilty, and guilt leads to anger. Leaders must learn to teach people better ways, show people higher paths, and call people to greater character without hurting feelings and building resentment.

Pastors assume leadership positions in the church and accept the responsibilities that come with leadership. If pastors fail to lead members

to reform or repentance, they have completely failed at their job. It is difficult to lead without criticizing or judging, and leaders, in turn, are often criticized and judged. Pastor Fred suggests that a leader should "Uplift Jesus and let the Holy Spirit do the reforming." And we are all called to lead others to Christ.

Leaders should set examples that others will gladly follow. They need to follow good principles themselves. This is not easy, but God provides the wisdom and the power and the perfect example, Christ. Really, by our words and deeds, we are all leading people either toward Christ or away from Him. A thoughtful life of prayer and Bible study can ensure that we don't lead others the wrong way.

Ryan Mundall

Membership in the National Honor Society is based on scholarship, leadership, character, and service.

A committee evaluates all sophomore, junior, and senior students who attain the minimum grade point average of 3.5. Scholarship is the most important criterion and includes not only gpa but also the number and difficulty of classes taken beyond the basic requirements. Unusually negative or positive demonstrations of leadership, character, and service also effect a student's selection to the UCA chapter of the National Honor Society.

Membership in the society is an honor and a responsibility, and selected students are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities by which they were selected.



## 2001 and beyond

As we stand on the threshold of graduation, we may get the feeling that this is the end. The end of being a kid and having simple responsibilities. The end of the protection and sheltering that we sometimes despised.

Instead of seeing the world through the eyes of our parents and teachers, we will now see the world exactly the way it is: cold, heartless and ready to take whatever it can. We face a door that for so long stood closed and only in our dreams. Now we find it standing wide open, begging us to step through.

But what are our true feelings about the life on the other side of academy? Are we ready to face the world with open arms? Here are what a few seniors had to say.

"It's going to be nice moving on from academy, but I am going to miss all my friends."—Ryan Mundall.

"I think that people put too much emphasis on graduation. It is merely a moment in time. Yes, it does signify an achievement, but it soon passes and becomes part of our memories."—David Nielsen

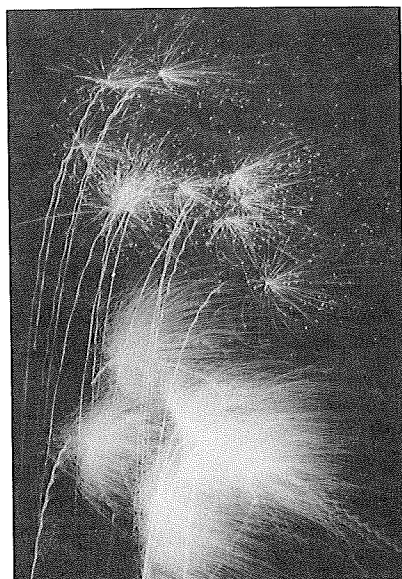
"I can't wait until graduation! I want to go to college now! High school was a lot of fun, but I want to spread my wings."—Jennifer McClintock

"I want to graduate, now, fast. I don't want to mess with high school anymore. I want to graduate now."—Lourdes Colin

"Earlier in high school I looked forward to graduation. Now that is so close I am not so sure I'm as excited as I was. I don't want to leave my friends."—Randy Mundall

Life is unsure. There are questions that only we can answer. Later in life we will need the guidance and counsel that we have been given in the past twelve years. The experience that we have gone through will help to mold not only our future, but also the future of unseen generations.

Christina Wilbur



*This year's Senior Talent Show was followed by a long and spectacular fireworks extravaganza up on the ballfield. David Douglas, in honor of his senior daughter Melinda, provided all the fireworks and set up the show. People in the community were alerted to the program and many came to watch. Even if they did not come, residents for miles around must have heard and seen the show.*

## Dormitory respect

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Those words are so often heard, but unfortunately they often seem to go unheeded. Even at the end of the year—perhaps especially now—we need to remember those words. With so many people in such a little space, just a little bit of respect can go a long way. "It is really hard to have patience and respect in the dorms all at the same time," said Crysta Newman. Some people seem to have no personal space and anything and everything is just fine with them. But for those of us that do need our space and privacy, here are some suggestions that might be used to show others that you do respect and care about their feelings.

~ Be quiet, especially when it gets late at night, because everyone loves to sleep in peace.

~ Always knock before entering someone else's room.

~ Never borrow things without getting the owner's permission and make sure to return them promptly.

~ Keep the school's property clean. (bathrooms, halls, outside . . . everywhere!)

~ God has given us different personalities. Don't put people down just because they are different.

These are just a few suggestions that might make life a little more enjoyable for you and the people you are living with during the last few days of school. No one likes to be cut down, and no one likes to have their personal space violated. In the end, just a little bit of respect can go a long way.

Sarah Trudeau

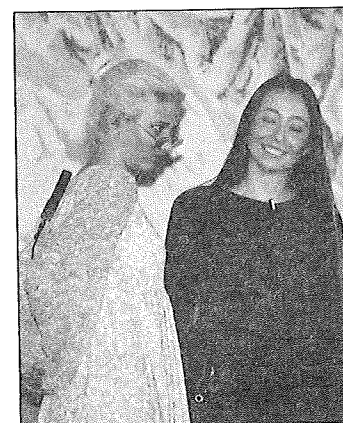
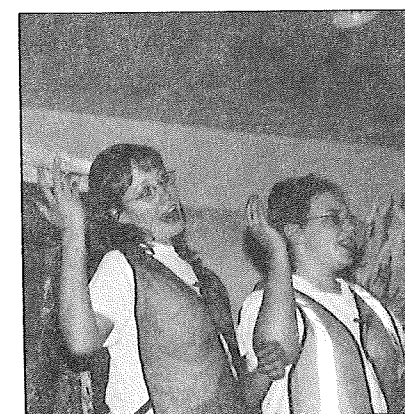
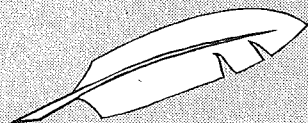
The Upper Columbian

echoes

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy, a non-profit Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school, Spangle, Washington

This issue's contributors included

Chris Holmes, Chris Jepson, Ryan Mundall, Sarah Trudeau, Rebecca Wahlman, LC Weichal, Christina Wilbur, and Stephen Lacey, adviser



On the Saturday night of Senior Recognition Weekend, the seniors again presented another amazing display of talent, this year called "A Swiss Holiday in the Alps." John Soule and Chuck Paulson, dressed in attractive shorts, suspenders and hats, inserted a little humor between numbers. The seniors also performed commercials to add variety to the program.

## In Memoriam

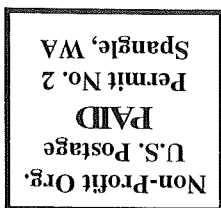


Ben Shelton  
1982-2001  
Beloved Son,  
Brother, and  
Friend



And God shall  
wipe away all  
tears from their  
eyes; and there  
shall be no more  
death, neither  
sorrow, nor cry-  
ing, neither shall  
there be any  
more pain: for  
the former  
things are passed  
away . . .

Even so, come,  
Lord Jesus.



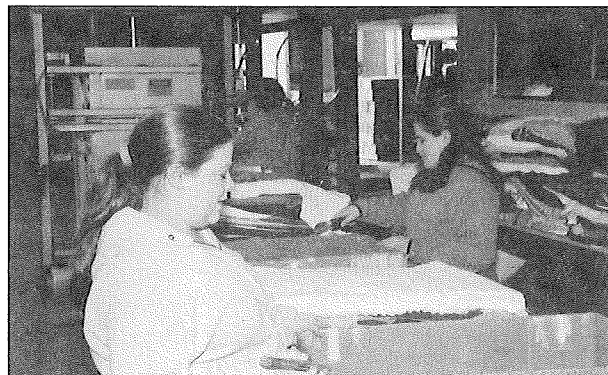
Upper Columbia Academy  
E 3025 Spangle-Waverly Road  
Spangle, Washington 99031



REGISTRATION  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

## Friendship

*Sharla Hicks and  
Lily Cerda prepare clothes  
for the ADRA baler*



We may think that fate determines what we become; however, the characters we develop are strongly influenced by those around us. The people we associate with affect our habits, our relationships, and our goals.

As we spend time with people, we begin to copy their health, speaking, and time-spending habits. For example, our table manners might improve after watching a friend's eating habits. Or, we might begin to swear after hearing a friend swear often. Our friends' lifestyles become familiar to us, so we begin to adopt them.

Our friends' attitudes affect our relationships with others. First and foremost, our relationships with God are influenced significantly by our friends. Friends who pray with us, encourage us in our spiritual lives, and share their own Christian experience with us can only draw us closer to God. However, close relationships with non-Christian friends will lead us from God unless we lead them to Him. Similarly, our friends' attitudes affect our views of other people. For instance, it can be difficult to like someone whom our friends openly dislike. Lastly, the opinions of our comrades influence our self-image. Friends increase our self-esteem by recognizing our strengths and pointing them out. They may also decrease our opinions of ourselves by teasing or attacking us.

Our friends also influence our ideas about what is important in life. A friend who takes time to maintain a devotional life shows us how important it is to do so. On the other hand, we might think money is all that matters if a respected classmate talks about it constantly.

This means that we should not only choose our friends cautiously, but also realize the impact *we* have on our friends. We must be doubly careful: first, to seek the positive influence of others, and second, to guard the influence *we* exert over them in return.